

December 18, 1944.

JCS Declassification/Release Instructions on File

Dear Henry:-

It was good to hear from you in the letter which Commander Noble brought to me. I think you can justifiably be proud of the JANIS publications. They are much admired out here and have proved very useful. Of course I have not had the opportunity to examine all of them in detail, but I can pass on to you the opinions of others, whose sense of judgment I value.

*subsequent volumes.*  
I am glad to see that recent JANIS publications have been reaching us at a relatively earlier date than was true of the first copies. This is true in particular of JANIS 76 [on China] and [also of those on Japan.] The first JANIS publications to reach this theatre [those on Dutch New Guinea, the Palau Islands, and the Caroline Islands] were criticised because of their tardy appearance, [and the JANIS on Formosa reached us much later than desirable.] However, now you seem to be sufficiently far ahead in your schedule to put an end to such criticisms.

You ask if JANIS 154 [on the Philippines] arrived here soon enough for planning and operational use. We would have liked to have had it much earlier for planning purposes. But we still were able to make good use of it. As an illustration of its usefulness, one of the JANIS maps, showing landing beaches on Leyte Island, was reproduced here in the preliminary intelligence provided for that operation. It was possible to do so here because sometime previously you had forwarded to us the film positives of the map and its information overlay.

The JANIS, as you admit yourself, is not designed for operational use or tactical planning, so much as for basic planning. It is not surprising therefore that many people concerned immediately with operations find that it is too bulky and too general to be of much value to them. They want, instead, special materials, pointed directly at their particular problems. This is one way of saying that the JANIS seems to be less popular on shipboard than it is with our shore-based planners and intelligence organizations. For the latter, however, it has become an indispensable basic reference work. From what they tell me, the JANIS is far superior to monographic works hitherto available. This is both because it is more complete and because it is more carefully prepared than its predecessors in the monograph field.

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In response to the specific questions you raised, my views are as follows:

1. I think that the JANIS schedule is now moving along so well that you need no longer worry about late delivery date in the field. Therefore it would seem undesirable for you to publish with more haste than has been your practice so long as you continue to send the 'raw' topographical intelligence to CinCPAC in advance.

2. I would not like to see you reduce the amount of graphic presentation which the JANIS features. There seems to be general agreement that, although the written text is necessary, information should be presented as much as possible by use of photographs and maps.

3. There is a feeling on the part of some people here that sometimes the JANIS writers are too quick to accept unsubstantiated reports. As a case in point, the chapter of JANIS 76 dealing with fortifications in the Shanghai area and along the China coast appears to give some credence to reports which are quite unbelievable. This is a "riposte" over the release of 2005/08/10 on CIA-RDP79-01147A000200020001-5

In my answer to your letter, I have shown no hesitation to be frank, but you asked me for an honest opinion of the JANIS, and that is what I have endeavored to give you.

Yours very truly,

/s/ Forrest

FORREST P. SHERMAN,  
Rear Admiral, USN.